

Unified Systems of Education- What is and Not UNIFIED
Inputs to Bahawalpur Division Policy Dialogues -
ITA/OXFAM Represented by Akhtar Mirza August 2009

UNIFIED means unified in quality assurance milestones and learning levels for each subject according to each grade/class

UNIFIED means determination by the school systems/headteachers/teachers to ensure ACCESS for every child especially disadvantaged (girls/minorities/disabled and poor)

UNIFIED means teacher education (pre service and in service) national standards to be adhered to in all systems of education (public or private/madrassahs)

UNIFIED means that all teachers must receive a basic package of salary commensurate with their qualification and experience which is human and meets wages set by the govt. for the appropriate grade level at least

UNIFIED means that all schools/students have a set of textbooks that meet the National Curriculum guidelines standards (www.moe.gov.pk) and also have some supplementary materials for reference

UNIFIED means similar assessment systems (raising our level of Boards .. assessment tools for all children that will then lead to better books, pedagogy, teacher training and classroom transactions)

UNIFIED means having headteachers in all schools who have professional skills in holding /cultivating a vision, managing change in their schools, managing teams for the best outputs, being accountable for quality learning outcomes, not being afraid of looking at their students' and teachers' results and improving progressively to achieve excellence without fear; mobilizing local community for support and linkage without apprehension or fear . above all being accountable, intellectually and socially responsible.

UNIFIED means basic facilities of a 'decent' variety such that students and teachers feel working in dignity and mutual respect with facilities of:

- a working blackboard and whiteboard with chalk/markers/dusters
- clean space to sit and learn
- basic teaching aides for the specific lessons
- fresh air/ not stuffy classrooms
- water to drink
- toilets that are functioning
- decent language and behaviour (colleagues and teachers/students)
- collaborative decision making

UNIFIED does not mean:

- All schools looking the same

- All teachers behaving the same way or wearing the same clothes
- All students/teachers/headteachers coming from the same class background
- All schools using the same textbooks
- All schools having the same sub-culture
- All leaders behaving the same way